

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2005

President George W. Bush  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am very concerned about the recent reports that one of your top advisors, Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, was somehow involved in the revealing of covert C.I.A. agent Valerie Plame's identity. I urge you to order Deputy Chief of Staff Rove to publicly and forthrightly explain any role he had in this incident immediately. I also ask you to reiterate your resolve to fire without delay anyone who was involved with this leak - no matter who that may be.

On September 29, 2003 White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan claimed he was speaking on behalf of the White House when he said it was simply not true that Karl Rove was involved in this incident. Mr. McClellan told the American people that he had spoken to Karl Rove personally and denied any involvement by Mr. Rove.

In light of recent reports that Mr. Rove was indeed involved in the discussion of Ms. Plame's identity before the publication of Robert Novak's column on July 14, 2003, I ask you to immediately demand that Mr. Rove answer the following questions in order to clear the air regarding his participation in this incident and the glaring inconsistencies with previous statements from the White House:

- Did you know that the person who is Valerie Plame worked for the United States Government intelligence services in any way before July 14, 2003?
- Did you reveal to anyone that either: Valerie Plame, "Joe Wilson's Wife," or any description that would effectively identify the person you were describing as Valerie Plame, was employed by the Central Intelligence Agency or in any intelligence capacity whatsoever?
- Did you have conversations with members of the news media, regarding the person who is Valerie Plame before July 14, 2003?
- Did you direct anyone else to have conversations with members of the news media, regarding the person who is Valerie Plame before July 14, 2003?
- Did you ever refer to the person who is Valerie Plame as "fair game"?
- Were you aware that Robert Novak's column, published July 14, 2003, would reveal Ms. Plame's identity?
- To your knowledge, were any other Administration officials aware that Robert Novak's column, published July 14, 2003, would reveal Ms. Plame's identity?

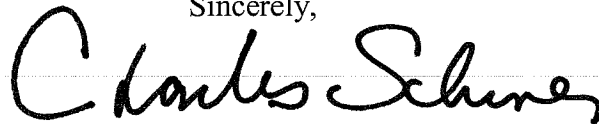
*I strongly agreed with your earlier statement that you were determined to get to the bottom of this incident and applauded you for coming out so strongly on the side of our national security. But I believe to truly follow through on that statement you must insist that Mr. Rove, not his lawyer, immediately and publicly answer the preceding questions. Until Mr. Rove comes clean about his involvement in this incident we will not be able to achieved your expressed wish of getting to the bottom of what happened.*

You have previously promised to fire anyone found to be leaking Valerie Plame's identity, a standard of conduct I strongly admire. However, just yesterday Press Secretary McClellan refused to reiterate your standard of conduct.

*Standards of conduct mean nothing unless they are applied across the board and without prejudice. As tempting as it might be to exempt those with close personal or political ties from them, doing so irrevocably undermines the legitimacy of the standards themselves and renders them meaningless.*

Mr. President, I urge you to publicly stand by your previous statements that you will fire anyone involved with this leak. I believe this offers you an opportunity to demonstrate to the American people that no one is above the standards of your administration when it comes to our nation's national security, not even Mr. Rove.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

Charles E. Schumer  
U.S. Senator